
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Date: July 13, 2013
Time: 11:00 a.m.

2013 Point Gardner and Kingsmill Test Fisheries Update #2

The Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance of fish returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner occurs one day per week for 5 weeks starting in statistical week 26. The Kingsmill test fishery occurs once per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27. The Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a very good indicator for pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound and lower Stephens Passage, particularly to District 10. The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and to eastern, lower Chatham Straits (Section 9-B and District 10). The results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch both fish heading north to Frederick Sound and south to Rowan and Tebenkof Bays.

This year the F/V St. Janet is conducting the Point Gardner test fishery and the F/V Siren is scheduled to conduct the Kingsmill Point test fishery. Both boats have conducted the test fisheries in the past and have a great deal of experience fishing the test fishing areas.

Point Gardner: There was no test fishery conducted at Pt. Gardner during Statistical Week 27. The Statistical Week 28 on Friday, July 12, 2012. Five out of the seven scheduled sets were completed. The pink salmon catch per set was well above average and similar to 2011 for this week; however, chum salmon catch per set was below average. The pink salmon sex ratio was 70% male, which is average for week 28. Chum salmon were not sampled for sex ratios this test fishing period. King, sockeye, and coho salmon are also caught during test fisheries but are incidental and minor in relation to the pink and chum salmon harvest.

Kingsmill: Test fisheries were not conducted in Statistical Weeks 27 and 28.

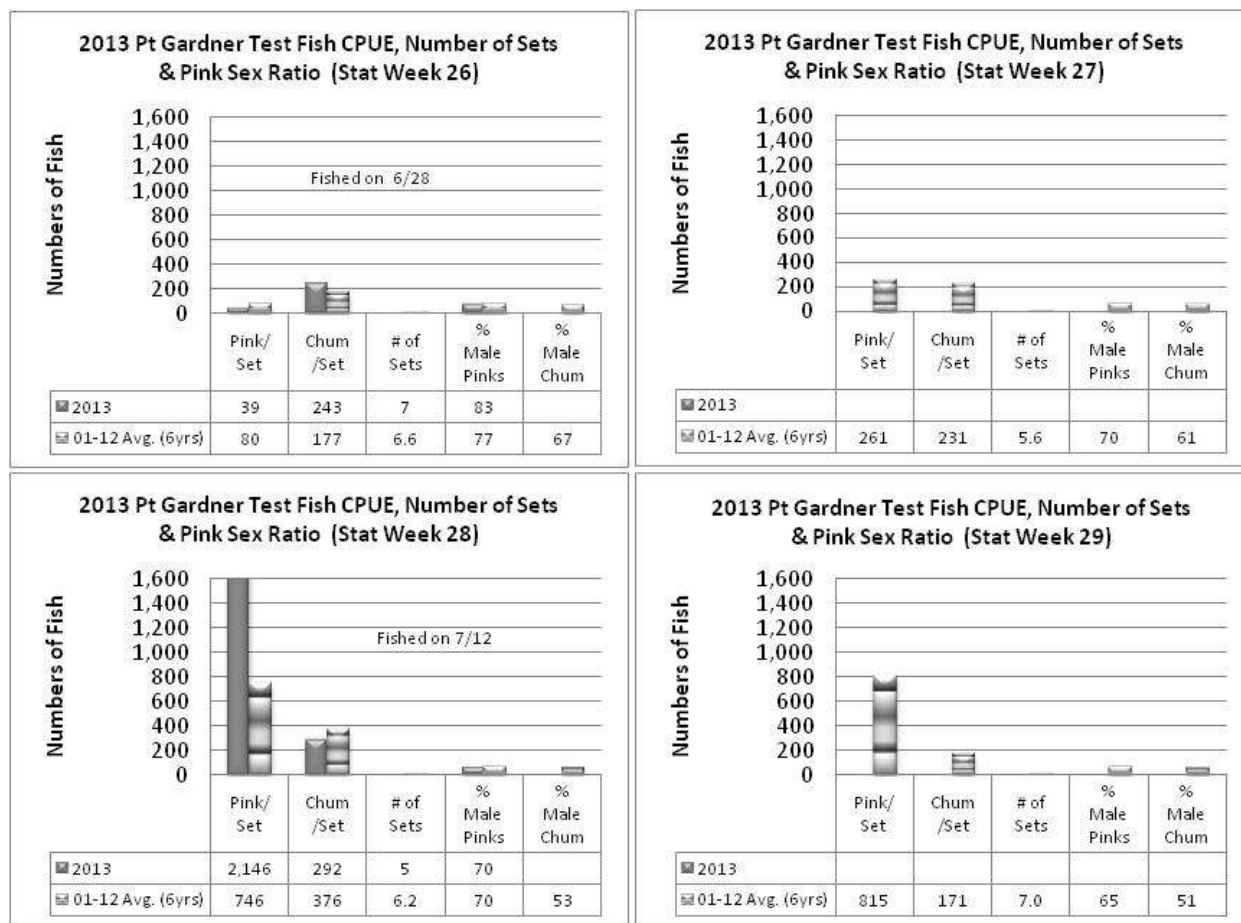
Run Strength: The pink salmon run passing by the Point Gardner test fishery at the entrance to Frederick Sound appears to be strong based on the historical average catch. The chum run passing through the test areas appears to be have waned from the previous test fishery catches and were below average in stat week 28.

Sex Ratio Sampling: Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the first half of the run and females are more numerous during the last half of the run. Comparing this year's percentage of males in the fishery this week, to the historical average, provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later or similar in run timing to previous returns. The Point Gardner test fishery sex ratio was average indicating the pink salmon run timing is normal.

Average Weights:

-Point Gardner: pinks: 3.3 pounds; chums: 7.3 pounds.

Next Test Fisheries: Both the Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are scheduled for Monday, July 15 or Tuesday July 16.



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